

## Jobs bill deserves its day in the sun

Even though it's less than a day old, the \$18 billion jobs bill just signed by President Barack Obama has been swept under the rug by the elephant in the room, the health care bill. But the jobs bill deserves its day in the sun, if only because it shows a ray of bipartisanship in a sky clouded with divisive rhetoric.

The bill, officially called the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act, does a few different things. First, it says that companies don't have to pay Social Security payroll taxes for the rest of 2010 on any employee who had been unemployed for 60 days or more. It also includes a \$1,000 tax credit (or 6.2 percent of their wages, whichever is less) for each of these workers who stay with a company for one year. It extends a tax break on equipment purchases and expands a program to help state, city and county governments get funding for infrastructure.

First, let's get one thing straight, although this bill is often referred to as "the jobs bill," by itself it actually creates no jobs. Its one of the most enduring myths of politics

Presidents and legislatures don't create jobs the way we think they do. They don't wave a magic wand and suddenly 10 million more people have jobs in the private sector. The only way government directly creates jobs is by expanding government agencies or hiring more staffers for elected officials, two things that meet with intense opposition. In fact, the administration created 750,000 new jobs this year for the census, but those are only temporary.

When a politician promises he or she will create jobs, what they mean is they will help create a favorable atmosphere for businesses to hire workers. That's what this bill does. It doesn't guarantee that your cousin Phil who got laid off from the meat packing plant will go back to work, but it might help that plant to hire him back, if he's been out of work for two months.

But lets see if this bill will actually work. Everyone likes tax breaks, but are they enough? Social Security taxes account for about 6 percent of an employee's wages. For someone making \$400 a week, that's \$25 a week or about \$900 for the rest of the year that the employer doesn't have to pay into Social Security. That's not bad once you add it up, especially with the extra \$1,000 if they make it to a year, but remember it goes away next year. This is also only applicable to payroll taxes. Employees still have to pay their share.

The good thing is that any size company can take advantage of this for unlimited numbers of workers.

The break for equipment purchases will benefit small businesses. They can write off as much as \$250,000 in capital expenditures, which could encourage small business to put the money they were going to have to pay on expenditure taxes toward hiring new employees. Of course, this expires at the end of the year too. It phases out if a business spends more than \$800,000 per year on equipment. Sorry Walmart, maybe next year.

This isn't a perfect bill by any means, but it is likely to encourage some hiring. The president got it right Thursday morning when he said this bill is not enough. It will not get jobs for every unemployed American, but let's be realistic, no legislation will do that. He proposed a much larger job stimulus in January, but that was gradually paired down by Congress. Congress doesn't want to debate sweeping changes right now, they don't want another health care fight when that one isn't done yet, but smaller measures like this one can slip past the gridlock and hopefully do some good.

—Kevin Bottrell



To....Tyler Esslinger who was voted Wrangler All Star Rodeo captain for the Kansas High School Rodeo Association. (Called in)

To....the Norton County Arts Council for the fantastic show Saturday night. It was great! I hope they bring them back again. (Called in)

## Your political connection

★ **Governor Mark Parkinson**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232

★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514

★ **U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

★ **U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124

★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399

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## Wake up America



Dear Editor,

I would like to thank and comment on your letter to the editor of Robbie Jones on Feb the 19. How right he is. What has happened to us? Americans in general?

We have allowed the control and discipline of our children to be taken away from us, and from anyone in authority. There are no consequences for the children's actions. None of us dare.

We have allowed our government to remove God from our schools, court houses, any public building they deem might offend a few while the masses are disregarded. What is going on? Think about it people! It's not up to someone else, it's up to us! We the people to speak out. We sit around and complain about the terrorists, the war. But do we stand up and be thankful that there are people

who are willing, who are dying for "our" freedom? No. It might offend someone. Well there is an old-fashioned word. Not used much anymore. It's called "respect," for courage among other things. But it's not used much now days. Just like our constitution doesn't seem to be used much any more.

Now as all the new "changes" are being shoved down our throats without ever even considering we the people. We sit and watch our big screen tvs, drive our

nice cars-fat and happy. Thinking this is how it will always be because this is America!

Well think again my friends. This little pipe dream you're having is going to turn into the worst nightmare you can ever imagine, and we call that socialism.

I know I'm old and cranky, but you might want to take a moment and ask: what happened in Russia years ago? What happened in Germany not that many years ago? And what has happened in Cuba-it's called socialism! Not freedom.

Stand up people! Insist on being heard, be counted, raise hell. Because it looks to me like both of our coasts are in la la land. It's up to mid-America. It's up to us!

Sue Sharp  
Rancho Viejo, Texas

## Vaccination clinic scheduled

### Vet tips

Dr. Sara White



during the early years of life. Early protection can prevent the heartbreak of dealing with a deadly disease. The best plan is to contact your veterinarian to establish and follow a vaccination protocol that is right for your pet.

So, what about adult pet vaccinations? Each pet is different with unique circumstances, which is why talking with your veterinarian is so vitally important to the life of your pet. There are many vaccines available. A single injection can contain several components. Since several combinations are marketed, it is possible to tailor the right vaccination schedule for your pet's unique environment and lifestyle. Your veterinarian can advise you on the needs of your pet to enable you to make an informed decision.

Vaccinations are only part of the reason your pet needs to visit the veterinarian.

Pets age much faster than people, on average five to seven years to our one year. That is why it is so important that your pet receives a thorough physical exam by your veterinarian at least once a year, and more often as your pet ages. Complete physical exams allow your veterinarian to evaluate your pet's general health, becoming aware of any health problems before they become serious illnesses. Since your pet cannot vocalize its feelings, you must rely on regular physical examinations by your veterinarian to assess your pet's health. Your veterinarian may perform diagnostic tests, including blood tests and/or x-rays, to evaluate your pet's health and obtain a baseline.

Remember, before you board your pet, vaccinations may be required. Many boarding facilities require vaccines to be administered at least two weeks before your pet's stay. Do not underestimate the importance of taking your pet to your veterinarian for regular wellness examinations. These regular examinations will help your pet live a longer and healthier life, so do your part to take care of your furry friend. Call us at 877-2411 with any questions about the health of your pet.

## I smile because life is good

### Acceptance

Rita Speer

Walking into a classroom at the elementary school a few days ago, a third grader asked me why I was always smiling. I tried to think of an appropriate answer, and she continued, "Do you have something in your mouth to make you smile?" I then told her I was smiling because life is good.

After agreeing to write this column, I pondered what it is that makes life good. I came up with quite a list, but I want to address one item which contributes to my being able to say life is good. As some of you know, I am a cancer survivor—a very grateful cancer survivor. When I was first diagnosed, I cried. But I knew I couldn't change what was, and denial doesn't work well for me, so that left only one option—acceptance. I had to accept the diagnosis so that I could move on to making wise choices about treatment options.

There was a lot of acceptance in what lay ahead: a second cancer diagnosis, having to have much more extensive

surgery than was first anticipated, chemotherapy, loss of my hair (that was a tough one). When I returned home from the hospital after the surgeries, I discovered the act of getting dressed each day was important to my emotional well-being. Slowly I gained strength and was able to see beyond my own physical limitations. I don't like being dependent on others, and the inability to do more than meet my physical needs and get dressed helped teach me to accept what I cannot change.

Acceptance means that I cannot change anyone but myself. I have to allow other people to be the way they are. Even if they try to tell me what I should believe, feel or do, I must allow them to be exactly who they are. Am I always successful?

Of course not. I get frustrated whenever I get "walmarted" or someone judges another or someone else tries to con me. But if I am to maintain a sense of peace in my life, I must allow others to be who they are.

I am not suggesting that we cease speaking out at injustice or turn a deaf ear to cries for help, because those are situations where we might be able to effect some change. But I have no expectations of changing another's point of view or attitude. I can only change things about myself, including my attitude.

There is a wonderful prayer, credited to Reinhold Niehbur, which says: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference." I am working hard at the acceptance part of this prayer.

When I achieve acceptance of others and life as it comes to me, then indeed I can continue to say, "I'm smiling because life is good."

## Day care bill a good thing

### Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



For much of my children's young years I was able to stay home with them...for one reason. I took in other children to supplement Jack's income. Fortunately for me and for our children and those I took care of, I like kids. Actually, I usually like kids better than adults. I have been known to say I never found a child I didn't like, only parents. With this in mind, I am very interested in a bill now before the Kansas Senate. The bill is entitled Lexi's Law after the 13 month old who died in her third day of home day care. This legislation would require inspections of all home day care facilities and require all to become licensed for a fee of \$10.

Unfortunately Kansas ranks near the bottom nationally in overseeing and regulating day care settings. Currently no initial visit or follow-up visits are required of a registered home day care provider. The new legislation has some very important aspects, such as requiring

day care providers to be within sight or hearing of a child and to check on sleeping youngsters regularly. In addition, a database would be created allowing access to parents to gain information and review possible complaints about home day care. It is hard to imagine arguments against this bill short of difficulty in monitoring compliance, but all change comes in increments and this is no exception.

Surprisingly there has been objections and one such comes from State Senator Mary Pilcher Cook, Republican of Shawnee County. She is concerned

this might place an "economic hardship on families."

She continues her objection with this, "I'm very concerned this bill could destroy the self reliance of families and force them to become reliant on government assistance."

I would respond, "Isn't it amazing some want to dictate the fate of an unborn child but not the safety of an existing child?"

My children would tell you I can dream up all the possible dangers to a youngster, but I can't. I welcome new information my daughter-in-law shares with me about SIDS and I would welcome professionals helping to make every Kansas child safer. Hopefully those with objections will realize the need to start reform and to move forward with the changes. We can always fine tune later...mmm maybe U.S. legislators should be sent the same message.